

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 03618 071220Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /083 W
-----004155 071345Z /46

R 071156Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 015
INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMCONSUL MADRAS
CINCPAC

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 3618

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT IN
SUBJECT: JOINT CONGRESS (R)/CONGRESS (I) CONGRESS(I) MINISTRY
FORMED IN MAHARASHTRA

REF NEW DELHI 3479

1. THE PROLONGED STRUGGLE TO FORM A GOVERNMENT IN
MAHARASHTRA ENDED MARCH 7 WHEN GOVERNOR SADIQ ALI
AUTHORIZED THE STATE LEADERS OF THE TWO CONGRESS
PARTIES TO FORM A COALITION MINISTRY. OUTGOING
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CHIEF MINISTER VASANT RAO PATIL (CONGRESS (R)) AND
CONGRESS (I) LEADER N.K. TIRPUDE WERE SWORN IN AS
CHIEF MINISTER AND DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER
RESPECTIVELY. THE GOVERNOR'S DECISION ENDED SEVERAL DAYS
OF CLAIMS AND COUNTER-CLAIMS BY THE JANATA AND THE CONGRESSES
THAT EACH HAD A MAJORITY OF THE LEGISLATORS AND
SHOULD BE GIVEN FIRST CRACK AT FORMING A GOVERNMENT.

AT ONE POINT IT WAS DISCOVERED THAT FIVE INDEPENDENT MLAS HAD PLEDGED SUPPORT TO BOTH SIDES. THE TWO CONGRESSES CLAIM THAT THEIR COALITION (WHICH INCLUDES SOME INDEPENDENTS AND MINOR PARTY MLAS) HAS THE SUPPORT OF 149 LEGISLATORS, A BARE MAJORITY. THE CABINET FOR MAHRASHTRA'S FIRST COALITION GOVERNMENT WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER IN THE WEEK. REPORTEDLY THE TWO CONGRESS GROUPS WILL SPLIT A 30-MAN TEAM BETWEEN THEMSELVES.

2. IN ANDHRA PRADESH, DR. M. CHENNA REDDY FORMER GOVERNOR OF U.P., WAS SWORN IN AS THE CONGRESS (I) CHIEF MINISTER OF THAT STATE ON MARCH 6.

3. JANATA'S MINISTRY MAKING EFFORTS CONTINUE IN ASSAM. IN DISTANT ARUNACHAL PRADESH THE JANATA REACHED THE BREAK-EVEN POINT BY WINNING 15 OF THE ASSEMBLY'S 30 SEATS. THREE MORE CONTESTS REMAIN TO BE DECLARED.

4. COMMENT FOLLOWS.
GOHEEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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